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Remarks by IEA-MoFA spokesman regarding UN General Assembly meeting titled "The Situation in Afghanistan"

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan views as positive those aspects of the resolution A/79/L.100 that acknowledge its achievements in ensuring security and countering narcotics, as well as the calls for humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, the removal of obstacles to Afghanistan's economic growth, and for countries to engage constructively with Afghanistan free from rivalries

UNITED NATIONS
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Meanwhile, with respect to some of the allegations and accusations contained in the resolution, the Islamic Emirate reminds the United Nations of the following realities

First: The resolution's endorsement of previous UN resolutions, reports, and assessments, particularly in the areas of security and human rights and using these as a basis for argumentation, is the continuation of the same narrative shaped under pressure and directives of certain countries, founded on the denial of ground realities.

Second: Although the resolution concerns Afghanistan's situation and requests cooperation from the Islamic Emirate in various areas, at neither the drafting nor the adoption stages was the input of the Islamic Emirate sought, which in itself raises questions about the accuracy and practicality of parts of the resolution.

Third: Nonetheless, the Islamic Emirate will assess the recommendations and requests and will identify areas for possible cooperation in line with Islamic precepts and our national interests.

Mawlavi Kabir, IOM chief hold talks on returnees

KABUL: Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, the acting Minister of Refugees and Repatriation, met with Mihyung Park, Chief of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Afghanistan, to discuss the situation of returnees and continued cooperation, the ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

Mihyung Park shared updates regarding the condition of Afghan returnees from Iran and acknowledged the challenges posed by funding shortages.

She stated that under IOM's leadership, agencies are actively working in Herat and Nimroz provinces, with plans to expand operations to other regions if necessary.

Park also proposed land allocation in Islam Qala and Nimroz for IOM activities and shared ideas related to the registration of returnees.

Meanwhile, Mawlavi Abdul Kabir noted that the Islamic Emirate, within its available resources, has already started providing services to returnees in Herat and Nimroz, including health support.

The minister added that MoRR teams are actively working at border points and emphasized the need for increased international aid to sustain and expand these services. He also assured that the proposals presented by IOM will be carefully reviewed and coordinated with relevant authorities. **The Kabul Times**

Supporting Afghan returnees top priority, spokesman

KABUL: Abdul Rahman Habib, the spokesman of the Ministry of Economy, said in a statement on Tuesday that supporting Afghan returnees is a top priority.

The process of delivering initial assistance to Afghan returnees from neighboring countries has begun, Habib said, adding that addressing the urgent needs of returnees, including shelter, healthcare services, and food distribution, is the ministry's top priority. "To address the challenges faced by returnees from neighboring countries, a High Commission has been established. Twelve working committees are actively engaged in providing services such as temporary shelter, distribution of food and drinking water, healthcare services, cash assistance, transporting returnees to their respective provinces, and supporting their reintegration into society. All available resources are being utilized for this purpose," he said.

These efforts are being carried out in cooperation with international organizations, particularly the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the spokesman added.

This comes as neighboring countries have, one after another, deported Afghan migrants over the past year, a process that has led to wide-ranging humanitarian, social, and economic consequences for the returnees.

The Kabul Times

امارت اسلامی افغانستان
وزارت اقتصاد

Afghanistan's population reached 36.4 million this year, NSIA

د احصايې او معلوماتو ملي اداره

KABUL: The National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) said in a statement on Tuesday that the country's population has reached 36.4 million in 2025, according to new demographic projections.

"51% of the population is male, while 49% are female. The estimates are based on comprehensive statistical modelling and serve as a foundational tool for national planning and policy formulation," the statement said.

According to the statement, Kabul province remains the most densely populated region in the country, with an estimated 6.1 million residents.

These figures are critical for strategic decision-making in areas such as public health, education, economic development, and social services, and help guide the allocation of national resources and investments.

The Kabul Times

Farahi urges 'full coordination' between foreign aid programs and Islamic Emirate

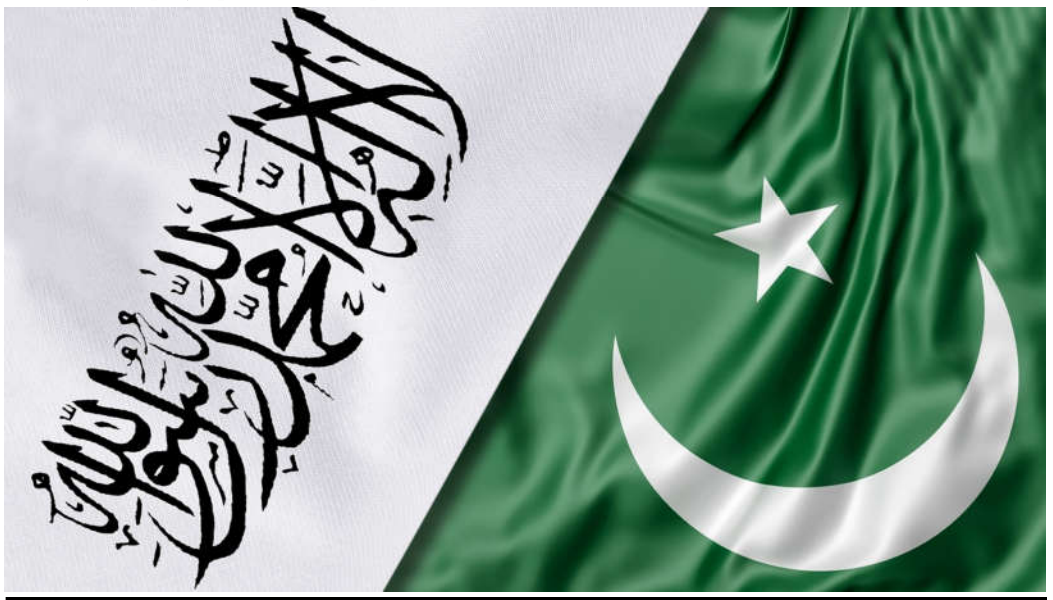
KABUL: Mawlavi Muhajer Farahi, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Publications Affairs, emphasized that all foreign-led programs must be implemented in full coordination with the IEA's relevant departments, according to a statement from the ministry on Tuesday. Farahi made the remarks in a meeting with Julia Elino, the Acting Head of the Public Affairs Division of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the statement said. He reiterated the ministry's readiness, in accordance with the Islamic Emirate's policies, to cooperate with all effective and beneficial programs led by international organizations, especially in the fields of public awareness and journalist training at both central and provincial levels, according to the statement. Meanwhile, Elino provided information on UNAMA's public affairs programs, noting their activities span across sectors including health, education, higher studies, and environmental protection. She expressed interest in collaborating with the Ministry of Information and Culture in promoting a culture of reading, public awareness, and capacity building for journalists in Afghanistan.

Julia also assured that all activities would be carried out in full partnership and coordination with the Ministry of Information and Culture and other relevant institutions in Afghanistan. **The Kabul Times**

دافغانستان اسلامي امارت
د اطلاعاتو او کلتور وزارت
مهاجر "فراهي"
د اطلاعاتو او کلتور نشراتي معين

Kabul, Islamabad hold first meeting of political consultative mechanism

KABUL: The first meeting of the Political Consultative Mechanism between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan was held in Islamabad, focusing on bilateral political issues, the ministry's Deputy Spokesman, Zia Ahmad Takal said Tuesday. Zia Ahmad Takal said the meeting discussed trade, transit cooperation, and regional connectivity. Resolving the problems of Afghan prisoners in Pakistan and facilitating the issuance of visas for Afghan patients and traders have also been discussed in the meeting, he said. He added that both parties pledged to continue engaging to address existing challenges and emphasized the importance of security for regional development and the strengthening of bilateral relations. **The Kabul Times**



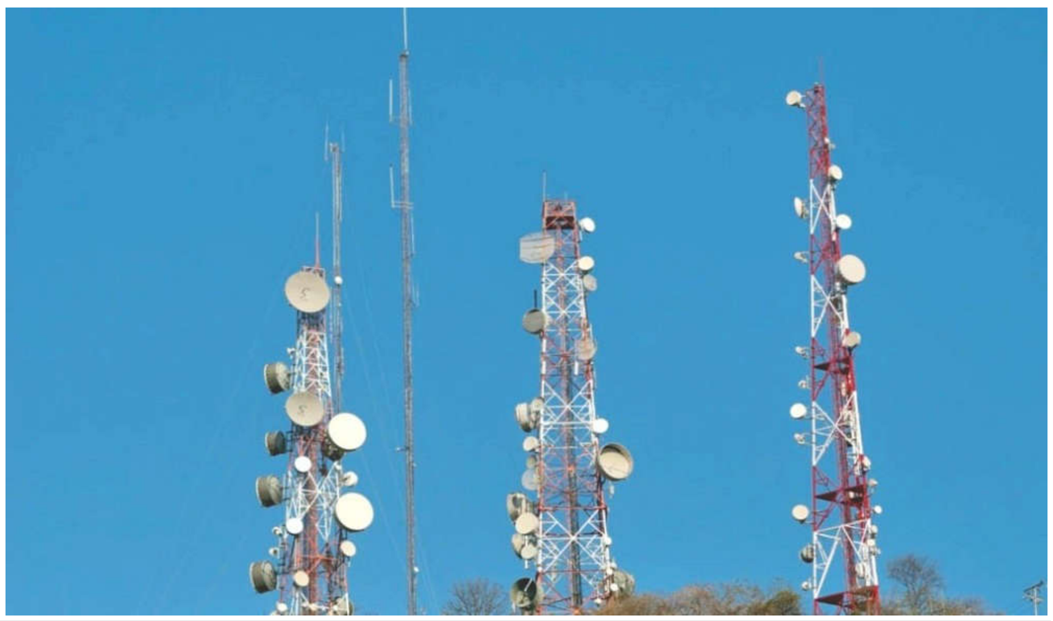
16 new telecom sites to be established in Logar

KABUL: The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology said in a statement on Tuesday that 16 telecommunication sites will be established in the remote and underserved regions of Logar province.

The ministry's spokesperson, Inayatullah Alokozai highlighted that the Telecommunications Services Regulatory Authority (ATRA) is dedicated to enhancing telecommunication services across the country, aiming to extend coverage to regions that have long been without such services.

Previously, the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology announced the establishment of dozens of telecommunication sites across several provinces, a move that is expected to significantly boost digital inclusion and technological advancement nationwide.

The Kabul Times



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Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Uniforms mandatory for all security personnel

A decree from the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate urged all security personnel to wear official uniforms to avoid irregularity and disorder in the country.

The decree, by the Supreme leader, was issued following the power resumption by the Islamic Emirate nearly four years ago.

The decree might have taken effect since its issuance, but the organs concerned have not fully implemented it.

Recently, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement that it has made it mandatory for all police personnel to wear official uniforms.

The decision has reportedly been made under the directive of the ministry's leadership, saying that from now on, all police personnel are required to wear official uniforms while on duty.

This is a good decision that should be observed by the police personnel whenever on duty, as the directive helps order be restored in the country.

The directive should be taken seriously as it indicates the follow-up of the decree of the Supreme Leader by the military personnel of the government on one hand, and on the other, it helps identify police officials by their appearance from ordinary citizens.

Using uniforms by the Islamic Emirate military personnel, either army, police, or GDI, is a standard internationally accepted, and on the other hand, this is not against Islamic attire.

So, as per the instruction of the leader, the entire military personnel including army, police and personnel of the General Directorate of Security (GDI) should follow the instruction and wear uniforms while on duty and any services they are providing must be in official and military attire so that the public can easily identify them.

The decree of the leader and the recent strong decision of the interio ministry to implement it all over police entities is highly welcomed, as the ministry assured that strict oversight will be conducted to ensure the implementation of this directive. Moreover, the measure would help the public more easily distinguish police officers from ordinary people and can foster greater trust between the police officials and the public while providing services and during any development.

Most importantly, a potential and likely criminal is afraid of responsible individuals while witnessing them in official uniforms.

Wheat production in Afghanistan sees notable rise in quantity, quality

Despite the ongoing challenges, including limited access to modern machinery, irrigation systems, and technical support, Afghan farmers and agricultural experts remain optimistic about the future.

Afghanistan has witnessed a remarkable improvement in its wheat production this year, both in terms of quantity and quality.

Compared to the previous year, this season's harvest has surpassed expectations, bringing renewed hope and confidence to Afghan farmers and agricultural officials alike.

The golden fields of wheat stretching across the country are not just a symbol of agricultural productivity but also a testament to the dedication and resilience of Afghan farmers.

Every bundle of wheat tells a story of labor, hope, and determination.

Farmers attribute this year's successful harvest to several factors, including the use of improved wheat seeds, access to chemical fertilizers, and more favorable weather conditions.

However, they also emphasize the need for continued support in public awareness campaigns and training in modern farming practices.

According to farmers in different provinces, educating the farming community about improved agricultural methods and providing consistent access to quality inputs could lead to even greater yields.

Many believe that targeted awareness campaigns and the expansion of extension services could significantly enhance their productivity in the coming years.

Recent data released by Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture highlights that the country's domestic wheat production currently fulfills around 60 to 75 percent of its total annual demand.

While this represents a substantial portion, the country still relies heavily on wheat imports to meet the remaining shortfall.

Estimates suggest that Afghanistan needs an additional 2.5 to 3.5 million metric tons of wheat annually to meet its full national requirement.

This gap is filled through imports from neighboring and regional countries, most notably Russia, Kazakhstan, and Pakistan.

These countries remain the primary exporters of wheat to Afghanistan, playing a vital role in ensuring food security across the nation.

Despite the ongoing challenges, including limited access to modern machinery, irrigation systems, and technical support, Afghan farmers and agricultural experts remain optimistic about the future.

There is a growing call for greater investment in the agricultural sector to help Afghanistan achieve self-sufficiency not only in wheat but across a range of essential crops.

Government agencies, international donors, and NGOs are being urged to expand support for initiatives that promote local seed production, improve irrigation infrastructure, and provide training in sustainable agricultural techniques.

Such efforts are seen as crucial for building a resilient agricultural economy that can withstand the pressures of climate change, water scarcity, and market instability.

Farmers stress that with the right combination of scientific guidance, improved seed varieties, fertilizers, and timely awareness, Afghanistan has the potential to not only meet its domestic wheat demand but also become a regional supplier in the future.

Many believe that boosting the local agricultural economy can also reduce reliance on imports, create employment opportunities, and enhance food security.

The Ministry of Agriculture remains committed to supporting Afghan farmers by improving access to quality seeds, expanding agricultural extension services, and encouraging the use of climate-resilient crops.

There is also a focus on forming cooperative farming groups and linking farmers to markets to improve income and reduce post-harvest losses.

Looking ahead, agricultural experts envision a future where Afghanistan can significantly reduce its dependency on wheat imports.

The aspiration is not limited to wheat alone; there is also a growing ambition to achieve self-sufficiency in other critical areas such as fruits, vegetables, and industrial crops.

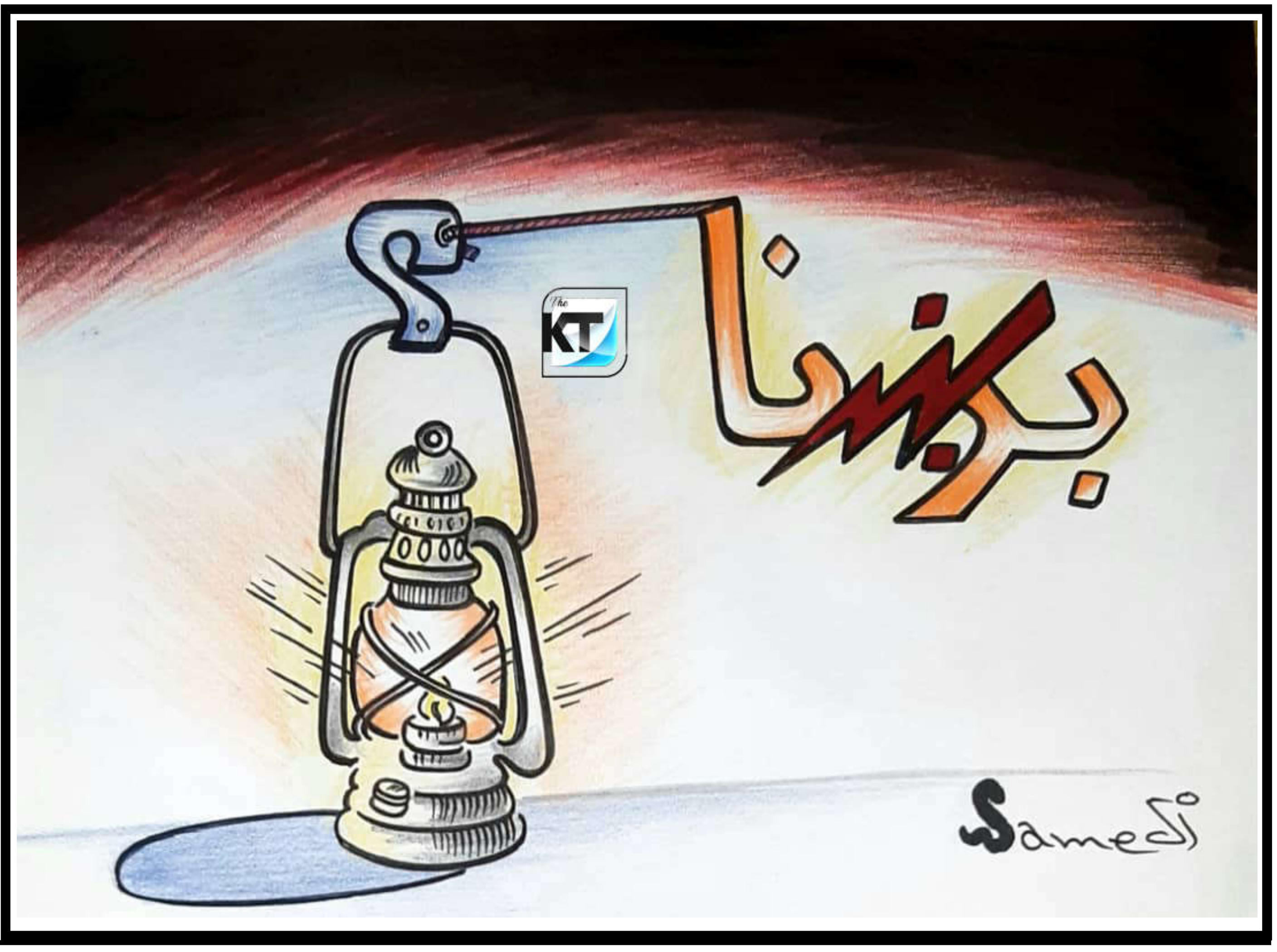
This year's wheat harvest stands as a beacon of hope for Afghanistan's agricultural sector.

It reflects not only improved yields but also the enduring spirit of Afghan farmers who continue to cultivate their lands under challenging circumstances.

With the right support, strategic planning, and a collective national effort, Afghanistan is on the path toward achieving greater food independence and a stronger, more sustainable agricultural economy.

The hope remains that the success seen in wheat production this year will serve as a model for progress in other agricultural domains, ultimately leading to a more self-reliant and prosperous Afghanistan.

Mashal Noori



Unlocking Afghanistan's economic future through its rivers

Water is one of the most vital resources for a nation's survival and prosperity. Rivers and water bodies are not merely natural features—they are strategic assets. Nations that effectively harness their water resources tend to enjoy economic resilience, food security, and energy independence.

Globally, countries with rich water systems and access to seas are generally more economically advanced than their landlocked counterparts.

Afghanistan, though landlocked, is rich in rivers and freshwater systems.

Major rivers such as the Amu Darya, Harirud, Helmand, Kabul, and Ghazni flow across its diverse terrain.

These rivers hold immense potential to drive the nation's economic revival—yet they remain largely underutilized.

While some local and regional initiatives have tapped into these resources, Afghanistan has yet to fully embrace the transformative power of its rivers at the national level.

The Strategic Economic Role of Rivers

Rivers can become the backbone of Afghanistan's economic growth if managed with foresight, modern technology, and long-term planning. Here are four key areas where river development could significantly boost the national economy:

1. Electricity Generation

One of the most promising uses of Afghanistan's rivers is for hydroelectric power.

With modern infrastructure and scientific approaches, dams built on these rivers could provide a reliable and renewable source of electricity.

A stable power supply is essential for industrial development, healthcare, education, and everyday life.

It also lowers operational costs for businesses and attracts both domestic and foreign investment.

If Afghanistan becomes self-reliant in electricity through its rivers, it can reduce its dependence on energy imports and redirect spending toward internal development.

2. Agricultural Advancement

Water is the lifeblood of agriculture. Many regions in Afghanistan suffer from water scarcity, rendering large swathes of arable land uncultivated.

By investing in irrigation systems such as canals, aqueducts, and water reservoirs, Afghanistan can revive its agricultural sector.

The Qosh Tepa Canal is a prime example of what effective water management can achieve—irrigating thousands of hectares and creating employment for countless citizens.

Replicating such projects across the country could dramatically improve food security, reduce rural poverty, and support agribusiness growth.

3. Fish Farming and Aquaculture

Afghanistan has yet to tap into the vast potential of fish farming, which can be developed along rivers and reservoirs.

Establishing fish farms would not only increase domestic food production but also offer economic benefits through trade and job creation.

As demand for protein-rich diets grows, aquaculture can become a sustainable industry—contributing both to public health and national revenue.

4. Expansion of Orchards, Forests, and Eco-Tourism

Proper management of rivers also supports forestation, orchard development, and the creation of green recreational spaces.

In turn, this promotes environmental sustainability and generates income through eco-tourism.

The creation of parks, gardens, and nature reserves around water bodies can attract both local and foreign tourists, helping to diversify the economy beyond agriculture and industry.

Current Challenges and the Path Forward

While some benefits have been derived from Afghanistan's rivers, these efforts have largely relied on outdated and inefficient technologies.

Many of the country's existing water infrastructures—such as dams, canals, and irrigation networks—have deteriorated due to prolonged conflict and neglect.

Moreover, there has been a lack of integrated national planning to optimize water usage across sectors.

The reality is sobering: the economic potential of Afghanistan's rivers is vast, yet what is currently being utilized is minimal and fragmented.

This gap between potential and practice represents both a challenge and an opportunity.

Conclusion: Time for a National Water Strategy

For Afghanistan to achieve long-term economic stability, its rivers must be treated as central pillars of national development.

A comprehensive water strategy, focused on sustainable usage, modern infrastructure, and inter-sectorial coordination, is urgently needed.

Recently, the Islamic Emirate, particularly the Ministry of Water and Energy, has taken some steps to control the country's water resources by initiating and constructing water dams in the country.

But, the government has the responsibility to prioritize water resource development as a national agenda.

Collaboration with technical experts, environmental planners, and international partners can accelerate this effort.

Afghanistan's rivers are not just bodies of water—they are lifelines.

If properly managed, they can power factories, feed families, create jobs, and fuel a greener, more prosperous future. The time to act is now.

S. Nasir Watandost

Youth trapped in addiction: causes, consequences, and solutions

Addiction among youth is one of the most alarming and tragic issues of modern society.

Every year, thousands of young people across the globe fall into the grip of substance abuse, behavioral addiction, or both, damaging not only their own futures but also affecting their families, communities, and the very social fabric of nations.

The reasons why young people turn to addictive behaviors are complex and multifaceted.

They include personal vulnerabilities, environmental pressures, lack of awareness, and easy accessibility to addictive substances or activities.

While the consequences are far-reaching and devastating, there is hope in the form of prevention, education, and rehabilitation.

Understanding the roots of youth addiction and offering meaningful support can save countless lives from slipping away in silence.

Youth is a period of exploration and identity formation. It is the time when individuals seek to understand who they are, where they belong, and what they want from life.

During this stage, many young people face emotional confusion, peer pressure, social expectations, and internal conflicts.

In the search for relief or escape, some turn to substances such as alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, while others fall into the traps of behavioral addictions like gambling, gaming, or social media overuse.

Initially, these habits might offer temporary comfort, a sense of belonging, or an illusion of control, but soon, they spiral into dependency, reshaping the person's life in destructive ways.

One of the core causes of youth addiction is emotional vulnerability.

Adolescents often experience intense feelings of loneliness, anxiety, stress, or depression.

Without proper guidance or emotional support, they may look for external ways to numb their pain or fill the void they feel inside.

A teenager who lacks close relationships with family members or supportive friends may seek comfort in substances that temporarily alter their state of mind.

Unfortunately, temporary relief often leads to long-term harm.

Emotional distress, if left untreated, becomes a gateway to dependency.

Family background and upbringing also play a pivotal role.

Young people raised in dysfunctional families or those exposed to violence, neglect, or abuse are at a higher risk of developing addictive behaviors.

A lack of parental supervision, absence of healthy communication, or inconsistent discipline can leave adolescents feeling unprotected and alone.

In such cases, addiction can become a form of self-medication or rebellion.

On the other hand, even in well-structured families, overprotectiveness or excessive control can drive youth to seek autonomy through risky means.

Accessibility is another critical factor in the rise of addiction among youth.

See P4

Over 370,000 missing in Gaza amid Israeli offensive

A recent investigation conducted by Yaacov Garb and published in the Harvard University database has revealed alarming demographic shifts in the Gaza Strip amid the ongoing Israeli military offensive.

Based on a thorough analysis of Israeli military estimates and population tracking, the study indicates that the population in three main regions of Gaza—Gaza City, Al-Mawasi, and Central Gaza—has fallen from an estimated 2.227 million people before the war to approximately 1.85 million.

This dramatic reduction suggests that nearly 377,000 individuals are currently unaccounted for—classified as "missing" within the scope of this study.

The term "missing," however, is not merely a numerical categorization; behind each digit lies a personal tragedy, a family shattered, and a life potentially lost.

The report provides chilling insights into the human toll of the war. It highlights the disappearance of civilians from northern Gaza, an area subjected to relentless and overwhelming bombardment.

Many residents of eastern Rafah have had their homes completely demolished, while countless families have been separated due to the collapse of communications infrastructure.

With widespread destruction and many bodies still buried under the rubble, thousands of deaths remain unrecorded.

These conditions have created a devastating humanitarian situation with long-term consequences.

Beyond population statistics, the investigation exposes a deeper and more disturbing dimension: the deliberate and systematic targeting of civilians by the Israeli military.

The findings suggest that Israeli forces intentionally focused their attacks on densely populated civilian areas, especially in northern Gaza.

These tactics have led to unprecedented casualties and widespread devastation.

Entire neighborhoods—such as the eastern regions of Rafah—have been subjected to continuous and indiscriminate airstrikes.

Residential buildings, public infrastructure, and vital facilities such as hospitals, schools, and water networks have been destroyed. The destruction of communication systems has further exacerbated the crisis by cutting off families from life-saving information and blocking the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The consequences of these attacks have been catastrophic.

Tens of thousands of civilians, including women, children, and the elderly, have lost their lives.

Many remain trapped beneath collapsed buildings with no access to rescue operations or emergency assistance.

These actions, as detailed in the report, constitute clear violations of international humanitarian law, which prohibits targeting civilians and mandates proportionality and distinction in warfare.

See P4

Investment in solar power seen as key to reducing energy imports

Investment in solar power is seen as one of the most effective and sustainable solutions to the country's growing energy needs. With abundant sunlight across most parts of the country, solar energy offers a clean, reliable, and affordable alternative to reduce dependency on imported electricity. Developing solar power projects can help meet domestic power demands, especially in rural and off-grid areas.

Moreover, investment in solar energy not only supports energy independence but also creates thousands of job opportunities, boosts local industries, and contributes to environmental protection by lowering carbon emissions. Encouraging both domestic and foreign investors through legal incentives, land access, and infrastructure support will be crucial for expanding solar power generation and ensuring long-term energy security in the country.

As Afghanistan continues to face a growing demand for electricity amid limited domestic energy production, government officials and energy experts are increasingly emphasizing investment in solar energy as a strategic solution to reduce the country's reliance on imported electricity.

Currently, Afghanistan imports a significant portion of its electricity from neighboring countries such as Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Iran. According to Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), the country annually spends millions of dollars to meet its energy needs through imports, leaving the national economy vulnerable to political, economic, and technical disruptions beyond its borders.

To shift toward energy self-sufficiency, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has begun encouraging both domestic and foreign investment in renewable energy, particularly solar power. Officials from the Ministry of Energy and Water held several meetings with international investors, including a high-level delegation from Bangladesh's BPTL Company, which expressed strong interest in producing between 100 to 1000 megawatts of solar power in Afghanistan.

"The country has immense potential for solar power generation," said a senior official from the Ministry of Energy and Water, adding, "With over 300 sunny days per year and large tracts of unutilized land, we can transform Afghanistan into a regional leader in clean, sustainable energy."

The ministry has identified several key provinces — such as Kandahar, Helmand, Herat, and Nimroz — as ideal locations for large-scale solar farms.

These regions receive abundant sunlight year-round and have the potential to generate hundreds of megawatts of clean electricity, which could help reduce power shortages in urban centers and provide energy to rural communities.

In addition to reducing dependency on foreign energy, investment in solar power would stimulate local job creation, support small and medium enterprises, and contribute to the long-term economic development of Afghanistan. Furthermore, it aligns with global trends toward renewable energy and environmental sustainability.

Experts argue that without substantial investment in domestic power generation, Afghanistan's energy insecurity will persist. "The only durable path forward is self-reliance," said Dr. Abid Anwarzai, an energy advisor. "Solar energy is our best opportunity, not just for today, but for future generations."

Therefore, it is crucial that investment is directed toward energy-generating projects within the country to reduce reliance on imported electricity. Developing domestic energy infrastructure not only strengthens national energy security but also creates thousands of job opportunities for local communities. Moreover, launching such projects plays a vital role in driving the country's overall development and economic prosperity, paving the way for self-sufficiency and long-term stability.

To implement power-generating projects successfully, it is essential to encourage domestic traders and attract foreign investors. Creating a supportive environment by offering necessary services, legal facilities, and logistical support will boost investor confidence, resulting in increased investment in electricity projects across the country. This, in turn, will strengthen the energy infrastructure, reduce dependence on imported power, and contribute to long-term economic stability and growth.

Tariq

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Kabul hosts large-scale traditional wrestling qualifiers

The city of Kabul has officially kicked off its traditional wrestling qualifying competitions with an impressive turnout of 1,450 athletes. Organized by the National Wrestling Federation in collaboration with the Kabul Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, the tournament spans twelve days and is being held at the 2,500-seat gymnasium of the National Sports Administration. Wrestlers from all five zones of Kabul city and various local clubs are competing in different weight categories.

د افغانستان اسلامي امارت
د بدني روزني او سپورټ عمومي رياست
رياست عمومی تربيت بدنی و ورزش

The primary goal of these qualifiers is to select 80 top athletes who will form Kabul's city wrestling team. Winners will be determined by a panel of judges based on performance, discipline, and skill. The opening ceremony was attended by several high-ranking officials, including Qari Hayatullah Rahmani, Sports Advisor at the General Directorate of the National Olympic Committee; Dad Mohammad Payenda Akhtari, Director of Olympic Affairs; Mawlawi Atiqullah Khalid, Head of Physical Education and Sports for Kabul Province; along with members of the leadership of the National Wrestling Federation and a large gathering of athletes. Organizers stated that the aim of the event is to nurture young talent, create equal opportunities for gifted athletes, and identify the most promising wrestlers to represent Kabul in future national competitions. The championship not only highlights the importance of traditional wrestling in Afghan sports culture but also serves as a platform for youth empowerment and sports development in the region.

The Kabul Times

Afghan cricket umpire Bismillah Jan Shinwari passes away at 41

The Afghanistan cricket community is in deep mourning following the passing of veteran umpire Bismillah Jan Shinwari, who died at the age of 41 after battling an illness.

A respected figure both domestically and internationally, Shinwari leaves behind a lasting legacy of professionalism, humility, and service to the game.

Shinwari was a member of the ICC International Panel of Umpires and began his international career in December 2017, officiating an ODI between Afghanistan and Ireland in Sharjah.

Over the years, he officiated in 25 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and 21 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is), along with 31 First-Class matches, 51 List A games, and 96 domestic T20 fixtures.

His calm demeanor and integrity earned him widespread respect among players, colleagues, and fans.

The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) confirmed the news of his passing on Tuesday, expressing profound sorrow at the loss.

"ACB's leadership, staff, and the entire AfghanAtalan family are deeply shocked and saddened by the demise of Bismillah Jan Shinwari," the board said in a statement.

"Bismillah Jan was a great servant of Afghan cricket."

Beyond his contributions to cricket, Shinwari was known for his charitable work and compassion.

He was actively engaged in helping underprivileged communities and was admired for his humility and kindness.

ICC Chairman Jay Shah also paid tribute, stating, "His contributions to the game were huge, and he will be deeply missed by the cricket community."

The ACB offered prayers for his soul, stating, "May Almighty Allah grant him the highest place in Paradise and give strength to his loved ones."Shinwari will be remembered as not only a skilled umpire but also a symbol of integrity and generosity.

The Kabul Times

Wojciech Szczêsny extends contract with FC Barcelona until 2027

Polish national team goalkeeper Wojciech Szczêsny has officially extended his contract with FC Barcelona for another two years, committing to the club until the summer of 2027.

The experienced shot-stopper, who joined Barcelona in recent seasons, has proven to be a valuable asset between the posts. During the last campaign, Szczêsny played in 20 matches for the Catalan giants, showcasing his consistency and reliability. His performance helped Barcelona secure victories in 17 of those 20 games, while the remaining three ended in draws. Remarkably, the club remained unbeaten in all matches Szczêsny featured in.

Szczêsny's contract extension reflects Barcelona's trust in his abilities and leadership. With his calm demeanor, sharp reflexes, and extensive experience at the top level, he has become a key figure in the club's defensive line. His presence also provides vital guidance for the younger players developing within the squad.

The 34-year-old goalkeeper, who has also previously played for clubs like Arsenal and Juventus, continues to demonstrate top form both in domestic competitions and for

the Polish national team. Barcelona's management views his extension as part of a broader strategy to maintain stability and experience in the squad, especially with a demanding season ahead.

Fans of the club have welcomed the decision warmly, seeing it as a sign of continuity and ambition.

With Szczêsny staying on, Barcelona hopes to build on their recent successes and challenge for more domestic and European honors in the coming seasons.

The Kabul Times

US to send more weapons to Ukraine, Trump says

United States President Donald Trump has said his administration will send more weapons to Ukraine after an earlier decision to halt some arms shipments drew condemnation from Kyiv and its supporters.

Speaking to reporters ahead of a dinner with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington, DC on Monday, Trump said the new shipments would be primarily comprised of "defensive weapons". "We're going to send some more weapons. We have to. They have to be able to defend themselves," Trump said.

"They are getting hit very hard now." Chief Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell confirmed Trump's comments later on Monday, saying that Washington would provide "additional defensive weapons" to "ensure the Ukrainians can defend themselves while we work to secure a lasting peace and ensure the killing stops". Parnell added that Trump would continue to evaluate military shipments overseas in accordance with "our America First defence priorities". Trump's pledge came after Russia announced on Monday that it had captured the Ukrainian village of Dachne, in Dnipropetrovsk, following a months-long push to seize territory in the central region. The decision also followed the Pentagon's announcement last week that it would halt deliveries of some weapons, including air defence missiles and precision-guided artillery, out of concern that stockpiles were running too low.

Aljazeera

MoRR signs $2.644 million MoUs to assist IDPs, returnees

KABUL: The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation said in a statement on Tuesday that it has signed three Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) worth $2.644 million with national humanitarian organizations to assist internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returning Afghans.

The MoUs have been signed with the Research and Human Rights Advocacy Group, Ansari Rehabilitation for Afghanistan, and the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Organization to deliver essential services and support to IDPs, returnees, and host communities across the country, the statement said.

Covering 28 provinces, the MoUs will benefit 258,500 individuals and 2,400 families, the statement added.

Based on the MoUs, the organizations will carry out activities such as public awareness campaigns, facilitation of cash and non-food item distribution, cash-for-work programs, legal counselling, and human rights protection services in the provinces, according to the statement.

Previously, the ministry signed scores of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with various NGOs to implement humanitarian assistance programs, and support internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, as well as to enhance access to essential services such as education, healthcare, legal aid, and livelihood opportunities across the country.

The Kabul Times

Youth trapped in addiction: causes, consequences...

From P3

In today's world, drugs and alcohol are often easy to obtain.

Social media and the internet have also made it easier to access content and platforms that encourage unhealthy behaviors.

Furthermore, the digital age has introduced new forms of behavioral addiction, such as screen addiction, gambling apps, and gaming addiction.

The more accessible and normalized these substances and behaviors become, the more vulnerable young people are to fall into addictive patterns.

Educational environments also play a role. Schools that fail to provide a safe, inclusive, and supportive atmosphere can leave students feeling alienated or unmotivated.

Academic pressure, bullying, and the lack of mental health support in schools can lead students to develop unhealthy coping mechanisms.

In some cases, schools may even become grounds for the spread of drugs and addictive behaviors among students.

The consequences of addiction in youth are far-reaching and devastating.

Physically, addiction can cause severe health problems, including liver damage, brain impairment, respiratory issues, and in some cases, fatal overdose.

Psychologically, addiction leads to mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, and personality changes. Addicted youth may become withdrawn, aggressive, or emotionally unstable.

They may lose interest in their studies, hobbies, or personal relationships.

Socially, addiction isolates young people.

As the addiction deepens, individuals often drift away from family and friends, leading to broken relationships and loneliness.

Academically, performance declines, leading to dropouts and lost opportunities.

Professionally, their future prospects are severely limited. Legal problems may also arise due to the use of illegal substances or criminal behavior associated with sustaining the addiction.

On a broader level, addiction among youth creates long-term societal problems.

It increases the burden on public health systems, legal institutions, and social services. The productivity of a whole generation is compromised.

When a significant number of youth fall into addiction, the future of the community suffers.

Crime rates may increase, homelessness may rise, and the overall well-being of society declines. Parental involvement is also crucial.

Open communication, emotional support, and clear boundaries are vital components of a healthy parent-child relationship.

Parents should listen without judgment, observe behavioral changes, and remain actively involved in their children's lives.

When children feel seen, heard, and understood at home, they are less likely to seek unhealthy validation elsewhere.

Community-based programs can offer a network of support.

Youth centers, counseling services, and recreational activities create safe spaces for young people to express themselves and build positive connections. Mentorship programs, peer support groups, and after-school clubs provide constructive alternatives to substance use or isolation.

For those already struggling with addiction, rehabilitation and recovery programs must be made accessible and affordable.

Treatment should be holistic, addressing not just physical addiction but also emotional, psychological, and social aspects.

Counseling, therapy, medical treatment, and community reintegration programs can help young people regain control of their lives.

The process of recovery is long and challenging, but with compassion, patience, and persistence, healing is possible.

Governments and policymakers have a responsibility to prioritize youth mental health and addiction prevention.

Stronger regulations on the sale and advertising of addictive substances, investment in youth mental health infrastructure, and collaboration with NGOs and community organizations can create a safer environment for young people to grow and thrive.

Dr Bushra Parnian

Over 370,000 missing in Gaza amid Israeli...

From P3

The report also highlights the methodical nature of the Israeli military operations.

Rather than engaging in precise military targeting, Israeli forces appear to have adopted a strategy of overwhelming force that does not differentiate between combatants and civilians.

The scale and persistence of the attacks, particularly in areas known to be heavily populated, suggest an intentional strategy of collective punishment, which is considered illegal under international law.

The population displacement—affecting over 370,000 people unaccounted for—raises serious questions about the intentions behind the military campaign.

The absence of accurate records of the dead, injured, or missing is indicative of the chaos and the collapse of basic civil systems.

It also points to the likelihood that many victims have died without being identified or officially counted, deepening the humanitarian and legal crisis.

The report urges the international community not to remain indifferent in the face of what it categorizes as war crimes.

The large-scale destruction, the evident targeting of civilians, and the denial of humanitarian access collectively form a strong legal and moral case for international investigation and accountability.

It calls for global pressure on Israel to cease hostilities, allow independent inspections, and permit humanitarian aid into the affected regions.

Furthermore, the study encourages international legal bodies such as the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to initiate formal inquiries into the conduct of the Israeli military in Gaza.

The humanitarian disaster unfolding in Gaza is not just a regional issue—it is a test of global commitment to human rights, justice, and the rule of international law.

The findings of this report serve as a critical reminder that behind every statistic is a human being, and the silence of the world can no longer be justified.

As the number of missing continues to grow, and as the infrastructure of life in Gaza is reduced to rubble, the call for immediate international action becomes ever more urgent.

Sayed Sharif